

## FIVE THINGS to do this week...

**1** MAKE your own Christmas decoration! Not only will you have fun and save money but you could enter your masterpiece into South Dublin County Council's Christmas decoration competition – which is encouraging residents to reuse household recyclables for their festive creation. Visit [www.sdcc.ie](http://www.sdcc.ie) for more.

**2** VISIT the Docklands Christmas Market which starts this weekend and runs through until December 23. Open daily from 12 noon to 8pm, the markets boast a range of Christmas gifts, seasonal food and stocking fillers – and indulgent hot chocolate, beers and traditional mulled wine will help warm the cockles.

**3** BRING the kids to see the live animal crib which officially opened this week at the Mansion House, Dawson Street. A traditional event in Dublin city, the crib is open everyday until Christmas Eve.

**4** WHILE we're enjoying a much warmer winter than last year's apocalyptic



conditions, residents are encouraged to read South Dublin County Council's 'How to Prepare for Bad Weather' leaflet. A copy can be viewed at [www.sdcc.ie](http://www.sdcc.ie).

**5** BOOK tickets for The Muppets Christmas Carol which is showing in Rua Red on December 22 and 23. Screening at 3pm, the film costs €3.50 per child and adults go free. Visit [www.ruared.ie](http://www.ruared.ie) or call 4515860 for more.

**F**OR those of you looking for a Christmas party with a twist this year, the Civic Theatre's magical comedy show – complete with a gourmet three course dinner – may be what you're looking for. Award-winning magician Jack Wise – who is the first ever Irish winner of The Street Performance World Championship – will head the show, blending sophisticated comedy with magic tricks. More than just a magician, Jack is also a ventriloquist, a sword swallower and a nifty pick-pocketeer and his razor-sharp wit has won him headline spots in comedy clubs up and down the country.

## One Wise man visits the Civic

According to Jack he has spent the last decade honing his "sleight of hand, magic tricks and comedy", after learning his first magic trick from his granddad.

By Mary Dennehy  
[mary@echo.ie](mailto:mary@echo.ie)

Based in Dublin, Jack's first paid performance was in the VIP suite of the The Pod and Spy nightclub which saw the talented trickster perform for the likes of Kylie Minogue, Robbie Williams and the Spice Girls.

Alongside performing on stage, Jack also entertains people on the street and last year won the Street Performance World Championship for his live festival act.

Some of the highlights of Jack's performance included turning a volunteer into a life size ventriloquist puppet and a young helper smashing up her parent's watch only to discover it sewn inside a teddy bear – in one piece.



**COULD IT BE MAGIC?:** Jack Wise brings his award-winning show to the Civic Theatre

To catch Jack, and enjoy a gourmet three course meal from the Interval Bistro, visit the Civic Theatre between Monday, December 12 and Friday, December 16.

Tickets for the show which include the three-course dinner cost €36.

Call the Civic box office on 4627477 or visit the website at [www.civictheatre.ie](http://www.civictheatre.ie).

# 79 Inn

## Ballyfermot

**WEEKLY ENTERTAINMENT**

**Thurs** Karaoke with Peter & Lorraine

**Sat** Sing along in the Bar with Tony & Stephen

**Sun** John Fitzpatrick

**Mon** Ballads with Paddy Sweeney

**Tue** DJ Ken followed by Quiz Night

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**POETRY DIVA:**  
Kate started writing in 1999 as a New Year's resolution

## The Poet's Corner

**Mash** by Kate Dempsey

*I was at a village fete  
with you in the sunshine,  
hand in hand,  
bouncy castle, tombola, homemade jam.*

*I judged the mashed potato contest  
giving marks for presentation,  
flavour, consistency.  
The winner, a dimpled woman of  
Amish appearance.  
What's your secret? I asked before I  
woke.  
It's about love, she said, all about love.*

I started writing as a New Year's resolution for 1999 and haven't stopped. After struggling on my own for a while with stories, I joined up for an evening class in Lucan where the lovely teacher, Stuart Lane, who is now dead (RIP), led us, not always gently, into the uncharted territory of character creation, plays and poetry. I have had poems published in lots of magazines and journals including Poetry Ireland Review, The Shop and Magma and Orbis in the UK. I have had non-fiction pieces and a short story broadcast on RTÉ Radio and was shortlisted for a Hennessy New Irish Writing Award three times. Recently, a collection of my poems was published by The Moth Editions in a dinky little poetry book, an ideal Christmas present. Only €4! I run the Poetry Divas, a collective of glittery women poets who like to blur the wobbly boundary between page and stage and are available to read at cool events and festivals all over the country. I'm looking forward to reading on Monday December 19th in Tallaght Library with Ann Marie Mullen, Ray Mullen and Patricia Best as part of a series of readings by South Dublin County writers. Come down at 7pm and say hello and enjoy a great night of poetry.